

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 H-01

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01

SS-15 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 MCT-01 SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8304

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VE, PE, CI, US

SUBJ: VENEZUELA REFUSES ASYLUM FOR CHILEAN HIJACKERS

REF: LIMA 5569

1. VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE JULY 7 CONCERNING GOV DENIAL OF ASYLUM TO CHILEAN HIJACKERS: (INFORMAL TRANSLATION.) QUOTE. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS -- IN REGARD TO THE FOUR CHILEAN NATIONALS PRESENTLY IN THE VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LIMA WHO KIDNAPPED AN AIRPLANE FROM WHICH THEY DEPLANED AT "JORGE CHAVEZ" AIRPORT AND WHO WERE THEN TAKEN TO AND LEFT AT THE OFFICES OF THE EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA BY RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS STATES:

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA, BY MEANS OF A NOTE DELIVERED BY THE OFFICER IN CHARGE TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU
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YESTERDAY EVENING, JULY 6, NOTED ITS CONCERN FOR THE SITUATION WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED, IN THAT WHEN THE HIJACKERS WERE SEIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU, THERE WAS NO REASON TO TAKE THEM TO THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY.

2. ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT HAPPEN, IF THEY HAD

(COME TO CARACAS), AND SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSUMED THAT THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE PLANE WAS VENEZUELA, THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA WOULD HAVE PROCEEDED TO ARREST AND TO JUDGE THE PERPERTRATORS OF AN ACT OF INTERNATIONAL AIR PIRACY UNDER THE CORRESPONDING CRIMINAL CODE. FOR NO REASON WOULD THE IMPLICATED (PERSONS) HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THEY ALLEGE IN BEING POLITICAL PERSECUTEES AND OUR COUNTRY BY CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE FOLLOWS A POLICY AND A TRADITION OF ASYLUM TOWARD THOSE WHO SUFFER POLITICAL PERSECUTION.

3. THUS VENEZUELA IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SPECIFIC POLICY REITERATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS WHICH ESTABLISHES A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT POLICY OF REJECTING AND CONTEMNING INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. GIVEN THE FOREGOING, THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA INFORMS THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU THAT IT REFRAINS FROM RECEIVING THE KIDNAPPERS AND URGES IN A CORDIAL MANNER THAT THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES REMOVE THESE (PERSONS) FROM OUR EMBASSY. CARACAS JULY 7, 1977. END QUOTE

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2. PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD PRESS JUNE 7 THAT HE WOULD NOT TERM THE HIJACKERS CRIMINALS, AND NOTED THAT WHEN HE RETURNED TO CARACAS FROM EXILE THE POLICE RECORD AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT LISTED HIM AS A CRIMINAL. BUT HE ALSO STRESSED THE GOV REFLECTS ALL FORMS OF TERRORISM AND AIR PIRACY.

3. COMMENT: GOV WAS CLEARLY ON THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA SINCE GOVE HAS ALONG-HELD COMMITMENT OF GRANTING ASYLUM TO POLITICALLY PERSECUTED. HOWEVER, AS NOTED CARACAS 5389 (NOTAL), SKYJACKING IS A PROMINENT ISSUE AND VENEZUELA HAS TAKEN A TOUGH STAND INTERNATIONALLY ON ANTI-TERRORISM. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, GOV POSITION ON CHILEAN HICJACKERS CASE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON WHETHER THE GOV WOULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT BRAZINSKAS FAMILY MEMBERS (PER CARACAS 5389). VAKY

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